the production of Ammonia/Urea, but due to the past performance of the coal based units at Ramagundam & Talcher, the high-level of investment required and the poor quality of Indian coal, no effort has been made for setting up of additional fertilizer capacity based on coal as feedstock. However, in view of the technological development made over the years for coal gasification, a private sector company has evinced interest in setting up a coal based fertilizer unit. A comprehensive rehabilitation proposal of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited on consideration of unitwise viability including Ramagudnam and Talcher unit is presently under consideration with the Government of India.

Change of technology in Fertilizer Industry

1869. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to change the existing technology in fertilizer industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government had constituted any expert Committe to suggest suitable technology;

(c) by when this Committee has been asked to submit its report to Government;

(d) whether Government have received the Committee's Report; and

(e) if so, the recommendations made by the Committe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) In the fertilizer industry technological upgradation is a continuing process by way of renovation and modernisation of the existing fertilizer plants. To encourage such measures, import of equipment and supplies required for the scheme is allowed at nominal basic customs duty and also extended deemed export benefits, by the Government.

(b) Government has not constituted any expert committee to suggest a suitable technology for manufacture of fertilizers.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

Requirement of fertilizer products

1870. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review of the estimated fertilizer products requirement in the country by 2000 A.D. has taken place;

(b) what proportion of this requirement is intended to be met by private sector agencies; and

(c) the capital needed to be deployed by the private sector to meet the target and the sources from which funds are expected to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Report of the Working Group on Fertilizers for the 9th Five Year Plan, submitted to the Planning Commission has projected the demand of major fertilizer products for 1999-2000 as follows:

	(Lakh MT)
Urea	225.00
DAP	50.00
SSP	37.80
MOP	18.40

(b) Proportion of the requirement of major fertiliser products proposed to be met by produciton from private sector is given below:

Urea	41%
DAP	47%
SSP	86%

Muriate of potash is totally imported.

(c) Two Fertilizer Proejcts viz. Expansion project of Chambal Fertilizers

and Chemicals Limited, Gadepan (Phase-ll) Rajasthan and Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited, Paradeep, Orissa are expected to be commissioned by 2000 at the cost of Rs. 1256 crore and Rs. 1830 crore respectively. Funding of the proejct is the concern of the promoters.

उर्वरक क्षेत्र में निर्यातोन्मुख उद्योग

1871. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला** : क्या **रसायन और उर्वरक** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि **:**

(क) क्या सरकार ने उर्वरक क्षेत्र में शत-प्रतिशत निर्यातोन्मुख उद्योगो और संयुक्त उद्यमों की स्थापना करने के लिए 91 परियोजनाएं/प्रस्ताव अनुमोदित कर दिए है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन परियोजनाओं में कुल कितना निवेश किया गया है तथा उनमें विदेशी निवेश का अंश कितना है; और

(घ) उक्त एककों के कहां-कहां स्थापित किए जाने की संभावना है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा0 ए0 के0 पटेल) : (क) भारत में सरकार ने उर्वरक क्षेत्र में किसी 100%निर्यातोन्मुख उद्योग/संयुक्त उद्यम का अनुमोदन नही किया है ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न ही नही उठता ।

Demand of drug manufactures association for less excise

1872. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Manufacturers' Association has made demand for more customs and less excise duties; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to boost research and development in the bulk drug industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) yes, some drug Manufacturers' Association had made proposals whereby they had asked that no further reduction in customs duty should be there, and simultaneously had asked for reduction in Central Excise Duty.

(b) As announced by the Union Minister of Finance while laying the Budget Proposals for the year 1999-2000 in the Lok Sabha, a high level Committee is being constituted by the Department to look into pharmaceutical R&D related issues.

Requirement of fertilizer and urea in the country

1873. SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of fertilizers and urea in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the total quantum of urea and other fertilizers met from the domestic supply;

(c) the estimated imports of urea and other fertilizers, country-wise, proposed to be made during the current year to meet the requirement;

(d) the estimated foreign exchange to be spent; and

(d) the total value of imported urea and fertilizers during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) State-wise requirement of fertilizers in nutrient (NPK) terms and that of urea during 1998-99 are given in the Statement. *(See* below)

(b) The entire requirement of potash is met through imports, as there are no known commercially exploitable reserves of potash in the country. The estimated consumption of urea and other fertilizers in nutrient terms and that available from